CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended). A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second mating jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position in which the jaw members are substantially parallel, at least portions of the jaws being parallel through a range of tissue clamping spacing.

a first elongated electrode extending along the portion of first jaw member;

a second elongated electrode extending along the portion of second jaw member;

the first and second electrodes being in face-to-face relationship and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity.

2. (Previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the parallel jaw members are spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the clamped position.

3. (Currently amended). A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second parallel grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, the spacing between the jaw members being substantially constant when in the closed position and at least portions of the jaws being parallel through a range of clamping spacing; each jaw including an elongated electrode and a clamping surface on such position in face-to-face relation with the electrode and clamping surface of the other jaw; the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current between the electrodes.

E1 cont.

4. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the closed position.

5. (Currently amended). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the clamping surfaces of the jaws ~~are~~ comprise insulating material.